

First Creek Harveyton Refuse AML Enhancement Project Perry County

Project Description

The proposed project (approximately 22 acres total) consists of excavating an old coal refuse pile for reprocessing. The project area is located on the Hazard North Quadrangle at latitude 37° 18' 40.71" and longitude 83° 11' 47.93" (see the attached map). To drive to the project area from Hazard: take Highway 15 North to the intersection of Harveyton Road North and Sixteen Mile Creek Road and stay right (east) on Harveyton Rd. for approximately 0.5 miles. The refuse pile is located on the north side of the road.

Removal of the refuse is necessary to prevent downstream migration of the refuse and coal during heavy rain events and to stop acid drainage into First Creek. This refuse also poses a fire risk as historically reported; a fire occurred in a small area of the pile and had to be extinguished. The coal refuse was placed here from 1925 until the 1960's, during nearby coal mining and coal processing operations by Harvey Coal Corporation, state file numbers 94500 and 94501.

Calculations for the existing coal refuse pile revealed approximately 300,000 to 400,000 total cu. yds. of coal refuse material to be removed and processed with an expected coal recovery rate of approximately 45%.

Access to the project area will be from Harveyton Road, a paved road that becomes gravel as you approach the reclamation site. A construction entrance road will be placed from the western edge of the project adjoining Harveyton Road. Removal processes will begin at this point and advance eastward. This beginning point is also where First Creek exits the property and flows westward.

Prior to refuse removal operations, a sump will be constructed on the downstream side of the coal refuse pile. All runoff from the proposed project area will be directed through the constructed sump prior to entering local stream channel(s). Once all coal refuse material has been removed from the project area and the disturbed area has been revegetated, the sump will be eliminated.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be utilized for this project to control sediment, including sump areas, straw bales, and/or a silt fence and a diversion ditch. A temporary 18 inch CMP culvert is proposed to allow traffic to cross the proposed ditch. The culvert will be covered with enough material to allow equipment and all authorized vehicular traffic to cross. Once the work is completed and during reclamation of the site, the culvert will be removed. Acid water discharges are not expected to occur. However, if this should occur, lime will be placed in the diversion ditches and the sump to prevent

any acidic discharges. A diversion ditch and a silt fence are proposed to divert any discharges into a sump to allow for settlement.

The project site will require the removal of trees over 5" in diameter at breast height. If the trees are determined to be potential Indiana bat habitat, removal will either be performed during the accepted tree clearing period, or a bat survey will be performed by a qualified biologist, or payment will be made into the USFWS bat fund. Once vegetation is removed, the refuse removal process will begin.

The existing coal refuse pile lies upon the natural ground line within the valley bottom. The applicant will create a work area for which trucks will be loaded as refuse material is taken from the existing pile. The disturbed areas will be kept to a minimum. Within the proposed work area it will be necessary to create enough room to allow the transport trucks the ability to load and turn to exit the project area. The removal process will not begin until all necessary drainage features are in place.

The equipment to be utilized during the removal process will include, but may not be limited to, dozer(s), endloader(s) and/or excavator(s). As the refuse material is removed, the equipment will create a stable configuration within the final ground line. The disturbed areas will receive final grading in such a manner that they will blend with the surrounding natural ground line.

Any rejected refuse or "red-dog" encountered during the project will not be removed from site, and will not be placed in such a manner as to contribute to runoff from the site. It will be placed on the slopes outside the runoff area and graded to a stable configuration.

Any concrete debris found in the refuse removal areas will be pulverized, buried, and covered with graded refuse and cover material. Erline Resources will dispose of metal and debris and any trash encountered within the refuse area in an off-site approved landfill. Any unknown mine openings discovered during this operation will be reported to appropriate regulatory authorities. Before any work on this project begins, it is highly recommended that the gas line be clearly marked. No power poles or power lines exist within the project area. No known cemeteries exist within the project boundary.

All refuse removal will be conducted between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, unless an emergency warrants the changing of the scheduled work hours. If emergency refuse removal is warranted, the Division of Abandoned Mine Land personnel will be notified in advance of such removal. Carbon Trading INC, a privately owned corporation, will be in charge of the refuse removal project.

During the removal process, excessive dust production will be controlled by watering trucks. This dust control will be conducted within the removal site, at the access/haul road(s), and any other place deemed necessary by the KYDAML.

Once refuse recovery operations are completed, the disturbed areas will be scarified, limed, top soiled or alternate top soiled, then seeded and mulched. If the native topsoil located at the original ground line proves to not have been contaminated by the refuse material, alternate topsoil material will not be necessary. Upon completion of refuse recovery operations, all disturbed areas will be revegetated to prevent erosion. The areas to be revegetated may require lime application to neutralize any acidic or barren spots or to promote vegetative growth. The Division of Abandoned Mine Lands will plant trees on the reclaimed project area. The species and stocking rate will be determined by KYDAML personnel.

The project site has been previously disturbed by coal mining, residential construction, road construction, and/or a previous OSM emergency project. The coal refuse removal area includes an area of First Creek that is approximately 1000 feet in length. No equipment will operate in the waters of First Creek without Division of Water and Corps of Engineers approval, and the First Creek stream channel will not be excavated without appropriate authorizations. All necessary permits and/or variances will be procured prior to construction.

This project will include pre- and/or post- project maintenance and repair of existing previously constructed public county roads utilized during the construction of this project, which are administered by the county or local road authority. This construction activity will be conducted under the authority and supervision of the local public road authority and will consist of standard road construction practices appropriate to mitigate impacts to the local community from potential degraded road conditions in order to maintain public traffic safety.